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applicable to the circumstances of the province. The new facts ascertained by him are distributed abroad throughout the scientific world, and become in their turn the means of promoting other discoveries, the benefit of which we are certain to reap in course of time. So far all is satisfactory, but one thing deserves somewhat more attention than it has hitherto received. The public is not kept informed of all that goes on; and whilst a report upon the internal affairs of the telegraph department, and descriptions of any new discoveries which may have been pressed into the service of the colony, as well as those which have originated here, would be of the greatest interest, we obtain nothing of the kind. One excellent and simple mode of enlisting public sympathy in favor of scientific subjects and of exciting public interest and curiosity in their results is thus unfortunately neglected. The annual meteorological reports which Mr. Todd prepares are deservedly recognised as being highly valuable as well as highly creditable to their author. Reports relating to other matters under his supervision and control would assuredly not be inferior either in interest to the community or in value to science, and it is somewhat surprising that such an ardent votary of science as he is should have allowed one means at least of distinguishing himself to lie unused for so long.

The observatory on West-terrace—that portion of it which is devoted to astronomy—contains a perfect mine of interest and instruction. It does not perhaps form one of the lions of Adelaide, as Mr. Ellery's establishment, and the Cassegraine reflecting telescope do in Melbourne, but planetary investigations of high interest and importance, especially relating to Jupiter, have been made there, and some valuable discoveries are said to date from it. The South Australian colonists or even the Adelaide people, however, know very little about all this. Except for the fact that Mr. Todd writes to the papers whenever any unusual phenomenon is about to occur or has occurred, such as the advent of a comet, a transit, an eclipse, or some unusual planetary conjunction, they would hardly know of the existence of the observatory at all. Now we entirely disclaim any intention of finding fault with Mr. Todd or his department, nor do we suggest in any way that he does not fully and faithfully perform all the duties that attach to his office. On the contrary we are certain that he does much that strictly speaking he need not do, and that these extra exertions are devoted to the advancement of the public interests. At the same time we wish to point out how without interfering with the strictly scientific character of the Astronomical Observatory it may be made to extend its sphere of usefulness in the colony, and at the same time supply a public want. It will be generally admitted that South

Australia is not particularly well served in the article of almanacs. Those we have are good enough as far as they go, but an official almanac, giving not only the correct times of the rising and setting of the sun and moon, but also the planetary and stellar phenomena, would be of great use. These particulars might be contained in an official publication, combined with a vast deal of official information, and published at a small cost. We are certain that it would pay its own expenses, and in all probability would soon return a reasonable profit. It is too late in the year to think of doing anything in this way for 1882, but nothing need prevent such a publication being prepared for 1883. There is no doubt that Parliament would cheerfully vote any expenses that might be necessary (and they would not be great) to give the undertaking a fair start. In the meantime Mr. Todd might arrange to publish in the *Gazette* week by week a brief astronomical calendar for the week succeeding. The whole of the press of the colony would gladly avail itself of such interesting matter, and it would be found extremely useful in the neighboring colonies. If Mr. Todd does not see his way to initiate the work of himself, it is to be hoped he will bring the matter under the notice of the Government without delay. He will certainly be the first to acknowledge the usefulness of the suggestion.

When we turn to another branch of science we do so with a sense almost of weariness. Year after year and session after session we have urged upon the Parliament and the Executive the desirability and the necessity of establishing a geological survey of the colony, as well as a school, if not exactly of mines, at least of such a character as would give the growing youth of the province an opportunity of learning something about rocks, earths, and minerals. All the arguments and the appeals in favor of the interests of the colony on this subject have been wasted, for nothing has been done. Last session a motion in favor of a proper geological survey was opposed by the Government and negatived because they had mixed up some geological explorations in a miscellaneous vote of £5,000 out of some loan. This vote will be of small practical value to the colony in a geological sense, because it includes so many other matters that nothing systematic can be done. We have a professor of geology at £1,000 a year attached to the staff of the University, but his researches are of very little use to the colony at large. What Professor Tate investigates he conserves for the University, or communicates to the London Geological Society, or else keeps to himself. The public know little or nothing of his movements, and what they end in. Occasionally some stray paper from his pen sees the light either at the Royal Society or in